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 Authority: HR 70-2

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WashingtonDate **23/09/80** Reviewer **018991**

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**MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT****SUBJECT:** Establishment of the National Communications System

**Reference:** (a) Memo to all Executive Departments and Agencies.  
 Subj: Establishment of the National Communi-  
 cations System, 21 August 1963

Your memorandum of 21 August 1963 establishing the National Communications System (NCS) designated me as the Executive Agent for the NCS and charged me, among other responsibilities, with designing for your approval the NCS. In furtherance of this purpose and in consultation with the representatives of the Department of State, Central Intelligence Agency, Federal Aviation Agency, General Services Administration and National Aeronautics and Space Administration, I have analyzed the major governmental communications assets available to determine:

- a. Which should be incorporated immediately into the NCS as subsystems;
- b. Which should be considered for later incorporation after further study and coordination and;
- c. What Federal Government departments or agencies should have responsibility for installation, operation, maintenance and modification of those incorporated as subsystems of the NCS.

As a result of my analysis and coordination with the other agencies concerned, I recommend that:

- a. Some 15 networks and systems now operated by the military departments and some 29 civil networks operated by the GSA, FAA, NASA and State [REDACTED] should be identified immediately as subsystems of the NCS. These constitute subsystems important to the early accomplishment of the objectives set forth in your memorandum establishing the NCS.

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**TASK I****SECRET**

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These networks are described in Appendices A, B, C, D and E of Enclosure 1 attached; Enclosure 2 gives a graphic representation of these networks.

b. Some 7 additional military networks and 23 additional civil networks should be considered for possible later incorporation as subsystems of the NCS. The military networks concerned are described in Appendix F and the civil networks in Appendix G of Enclosure 1. The civil networks are currently operated by the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Interior, Treasury, Justice and Health, Education and Welfare and by the Federal Reserve Board, Atomic Energy Commission; Federal Communications Commission, Tennessee Valley Authority, United States Information Agency and Veterans Administration. Enclosure 2 gives a graphic representation of most of these networks.

c. No change should be made at the present time with regard to agency responsibilities for their assets incorporated into the NCS. However, a Near Term Plan to be completed in early November 1963 and a Long Range Plan to be completed 1 April 1964 may recommend changes in this regard.

The seven military networks to be considered for possible later incorporation in the NCS are not critical to the achieving initial NCS objectives. They are in part fully dedicated technical systems and in part temporary systems or systems under test. Further recommendations with regard to these will be included in the Near Term Plan to be submitted in early November 1963 or the Long Range Plan to be submitted 1 April 1964.

The 23 civil networks proposed for further consideration are special purpose networks which need detailed analysis as to the appropriateness of incorporating them into the NCS and, if to be incorporated, the best manner of incorporation. I do not consider that the immediate incorporation of any of these networks into the NCS is critical to the achieving of early NCS objectives. To date there has been insufficient time to investigate with the operating agencies, and with General Service Administrator as appropriate, to determine which should be incorporated into the NCS and under what organizational arrangements. I plan to consult as early as possible with each of these agencies, and with the General Services Administrator as appropriate, in this regard. My recommended Near Term Plan to be submitted in early November

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and my recommended Long Range Plan of 1 April will give recommendations with regard to incorporating such of these systems as appear warranted into the NCS, together with the opinions of the interested agencies concerned.

In view of the above and to permit earliest future progress on other critical tasks concerned with development of the NCS, I recommend:

a. The communications assets described in Appendices A, B, C, D and E of Enclosure 1 be approved for immediate inclusion as subsystems of the NCS.

b. The departments and agencies identified in these Appendices continue to have responsibility for installation, operation, maintenance and modification (including budgeting and funding) for their subsystems of the NCS pending any changes to be recommended in the Near Term and Long Range Plans.

c. The existing use priorities applicable to the networks described in these enclosures continue to prevail pending the establishment of an approved NCS priority system.

d. It be noted that the national governmental communications assets described in Appendices F and G of Enclosure 1 will be considered further for later incorporation in the NCS and that appropriate recommendations in this regard will be submitted in the Near Term and Long Range Plans.

2 Enclosures

Executive Agent,  
National Communications System

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